

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber making method comprising the steps of:
 - inserting an optical fiber preform into a furnace core tube of a draw furnace;
 - heating the furnace core tube with a main heater to heat and melt a lower end portion of the optical fiber preform;
 - drawing an optical fiber from the lower end of the optical fiber preform;
 - measuring the glass draw tension of the optical fiber while drawing to obtain a measured glass draw tension; and
 - changing a gas flow rate or gas composition supplied to a periphery of the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform in response to the measured glass draw tension to change the measured glass draw tension so as to have a predetermined changing along a longitudinal direction of the optical fiber being manufactured to change a local chromatic dispersion along its direction.
~~an amount of heat applied to the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform in response to the measured glass draw tension, without depending solely on the main heater, to change a the measured glass draw tension to a predetermined value and thereby change a local chromatic dispersion along a longitudinal direction of the optical fiber being manufactured.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) An optical fiber making method according to claim 1, wherein an amount of heat supplied from an auxiliary heater provided close to the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform is changed in response to the changing of a gas flow rate or gas composition supplied to a periphery of the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform.
~~to change the amount of heat applied to the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform.~~

4. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) An optical fiber making method according to claim 1, wherein a part of the heat dissipated from the furnace core tube or the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform is controlled and the dissipating condition is changed in response to the changing of a gas flow rate or gas composition supplied to a periphery of the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform, so as to change the amount of heat applied to the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform.

5. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) An optical fiber making method according to claim 1, wherein a positional relation between the optical fiber preform and the furnace core tube are changed in response to the changing of a gas flow rate or gas composition supplied to a periphery of the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform, to change the amount of heat applied to the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) An optical fiber making apparatus comprising:
a draw furnace having a furnace core tube into which an optical fiber preform is inserted and a main heater to heat the furnace core tube, the draw furnace heating and melting a lower end portion of the optical fiber preform;
a feeder to feed the optical fiber preform into the furnace core tube;
a draw means to draw an optical fiber from the lower end of the optical fiber preform in the draw furnace; ~~and~~

a gas supply means for supplying a gas to a periphery of the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform;

a tension measuring means to measure an actually applied draw tension; and
a draw tension adjust means to adjust an actual draw tension to have given change along the longitudinal direction of the optical fiber to be manufactured by changing gas flow rate or gas composition by said gas supply means.

~~a draw tension adjust means to adjust a draw tension by adjusting the amount of heat applied to the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform.~~

8. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) An optical fiber making apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising an auxiliary heater disposed close to the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform and wherein said draw tension adjust means change the heat amount from said auxiliary heater in response to changing gas flow rate or gas composition of said gas supply means, wherein the draw tension adjust means has a gas supply means for supplying a gas to a periphery of the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform, and the gas supply means varies either or both of flow and composition of the gas supplied.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) An optical fiber making apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising: wherein the draw tension adjust means has:

an insulating means disposed close the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform to control heat dissipated from the furnace core tube or the lower end portion of the optical fiber preform; and

an insulating means varying device to change a position or state of the insulating means,
wherein said draw tension adjust means controls said insulating means varying devices in
response to changing gas flow rate or gas composition of said gas supply means.

11. (Cancelled)